

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:
a mixture consisting essentially of (1) a dried hydrophobic sol-gel
functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent comprising a
manganese and iron mixture and (2) a solid support structure additionally
functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent.
2. (Original) The composition recited in claim 1, wherein said mixture is
molded, granular, or powdered.
3. (Original) The composition recited in claim 1, wherein said dried
hydrophobic sol-gel is an aerogel or xerogel.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The composition recited in claim 1, wherein the solid
support structure is granulated activated carbon (GAC).
6. (Original) The composition recited in claim 5, wherein the GAC is
acid washed.
7. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:
a predetermined amount of a hydrophobic aerogel functionalized
with at least one arsenic-removing constituent comprising a manganese and iron
mixture; and

a predetermined amount of granulated activated carbon
~~functionalized with at least one arsenic removing constituent~~, wherein said composition is capable of removing arsenic contaminants from aqueous media.

8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a dried hydrophobic sol-gel on a solid support structure, wherein said dried hydrophobic sol-gel and said solid support structure are functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent comprising a manganese and iron mixture;

contacting said dried hydrophobic sol-gel on a solid support structure to an aqueous sample; and

analyzing said dried hydrophobic sol-gel on said solid support structure after contacting it with said aqueous sample in order to detect the presence and/or concentration of arsenic.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 8, wherein said dried hydrophobic sol-gel is a hydrophobic aerogel or hydrophobic xerogel.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method recited in claim 8, wherein the solid support structure is granulated activated carbon (GAC).

13. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the GAC is acid washed.

14. (New) The method recited in claim 1, wherein said dried hydrophobic sol-gel comprises greater than 0% but less than about 20% of said mixture.